(c) what has been the total consequential loss of life and property during each year of the above years; and

(d) whether Government have found out the increase in the number of such accidents, if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. (b) The total number of road accidents are as under:

Year	Number of Accidents
1996 (in respect of 31 States/UTs.)	3,55,103
1997 (in respect of 29 States/UTs.)	2,90,415
1998 - (in respect of 25 States/UTs.)	2,83,564

(c) Number of persons who lost their lives is 71,943 (1996), 61000 (1997) and 57,800 (1998). Assessment of loss of property cannot be worked out as it depends on various factors like loss of personal belongings of passengers, damage to vehicles, roads and other properties'.

(d) Various reasons for increase in road accidents are: Lack of traffic discipline on the part of drivers and road users, phenominal increase in the number of motor vehicles with no corresponding increase in road capacity, mixed traffic conditions, overspeeding, overloading, drunken driving, mechanical defects in vehicles etc.

Tourists inflow in Kashmir

195. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Ministr of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the inflow of tourists is picking-up in Kashmir;

(b) if so, what was the number of tourists in the last two years; and

(c) what new attractions and facilities are being provided to attract more tourist?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Total number of tourists who visited Kashmir during the year 1997 and 1998 were 16,138 and 1,09,883 respectively.

(c) Various measures taken by the Government to attract more tourists in the State include renovating and reviving of infrastructure, direct marketing of products in different metros of the countries, and arranging number of cultural programmes etc.

Decline in Tourists Inflow

196. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the growth of tourist traffic was almost 0% for the year 1998-99;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the prevailing socio-political and recessionary conditions have not been conducive to foreign tourists; and

(c) if so, what are Government's views on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARATI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. ..

(c) Does not arise.

Creation of Tourism Office in NE Region

197. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether an office of the India Tourism for NE was created;

(b) if so, the objective thereof and present location of the office at Guwahati, achievements made so far on each of the objective;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Regional Director is operating his office from Culcutta;

(d) if not, the number of days he actually officiated in Assam in